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Justice

International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union  
(ILGWU)

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1-11-1929

## Justice (Vol. 11, Iss. 1)

International Ladies Garment Workers Union (ILGWU)

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## Justice (Vol. 11, Iss. 1)

### Keywords

International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, ILGWU, labor unions, clothing workers, textile workers, garment workers, garment industry, New York, United States

### Comments

*Justice* was the official publication of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union ILGWU from 1919 to 1995. Editions of *Justice* were published in English, Italian, Spanish, and Yiddish. When compared side by side, the content of some of these different editions of *Justice* shows significant differences. This is the English-language edition of *Justice*.

"My righteous-  
ness I hold fast,  
and will not let  
it go."

—Job 27:8

# JUSTICE

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE INTERNATIONAL LADIES' GARMENT WORKERS' UNION

"Workers  
of the world  
united! You  
have nothing to  
lose but your  
chains."

Vol. XI. No. 1.

JERSEY CITY, N. J., FRIDAY, JANUARY 11, 1929

PRICE 3 CENTS

## Three Weeks Remain To Unity House Dance

Affair Will Be Held on Saturday  
Evening, February 2, 1929, in the  
Manhattan Opera House  
Ballroom

The coming Unity Reunion Dance is now the talk of the day. Hundreds of Union members and friends of Unity in general are getting ready for this evening. Many are calling up the Unity office to find out how they should be dressed for that evening. Extreme democracy will be the rule. No one will be out of place, whether in plain working dress, in evening gown, or in a tuxedo.

This reunion has become a family affair; our members and their families and friends come there to enjoy the warm, comradely atmosphere of the evening. The committee in charge calls attention to the fact that tickets may be bought in advance for \$1.00, either from the Educational Department, 3 West 16th Street, or directly from the local unions. At the box office the tickets will cost \$1.25. It will greatly accommodate the arrangements committee if tickets are bought in advance, as this will abolish waiting lines.

## Big Block of Bonds Sold by Union in First Two Weeks

Pres. Schlesinger in Charge of Selling Campaign—Chicago Members Will Work a Day to Buy Bonds—New York, Cleveland, Philadelphia and Chicago Respond With a Zeal—Bond Issue Stirs Interest Through Whole Labor Movement

The bond loan issue of \$250,000, announced by President Schlesinger two weeks ago, has already scored a marked success and aroused keen interest in labor circles everywhere.

During these two weeks bonds were bought by groups, locals and individuals in New York and in many other cities. As an outstanding example of deep interest in the financial undertaking of the I. L. G. W. U. may be cited the decision of the Chicago locals and Joint Board to work a day and to apply the earnings of that day toward the purchase of International bonds. A few days prior to that vote, the Joint Board decided to buy outright \$15,000 worth of bonds.

In charge of this drive is President Schlesinger, and he is going about his task in a whirlwind fashion. Every place he visited so far has responded nobly to his appeal for a financial "breathing spell" for the International, finding a favorable echo not only among the members of the

## Industrial Council Rejects Union Demands; Seeks Piece-Work, Longer Hours

"Inside" Manufacturers Concede Sweat-Shop Menace But Refuse Constructive Remedies Offered by International — President Schlesinger Disagrees With Conclusions of Industrial Council's Spokesmen — Other Conferences to Follow Soon

The Industrial Council of Cloak, Suit and Skirt Manufacturers, Inc., the organization of the "inside" cloak manufacturers, rejected last Thursday, January 3, at a conference with Union representatives the demands made by the cloak makers' organization for embodiment in the new contract which is to supplant the old collective agreement after it expires on May 31.

"We agree with you that the sweat-shop system has again secured a foothold in our industry," the Industrial

Council leaders told the spokesmen of the Union, but insisted that this deplorable condition would be intensified "unless the union will view the industry's problems in a broader light." The manufacturers made their formal reply to the union demands at a meeting at the Hotel Pennsylvania with a committee of the Union headed by President Benj. Schlesinger. I Grossman, president of the Industrial Council, signed the letter which answered the union's demands.

All the Unions' demands were rejected by the "inside" manufacturers' association on the ground that their granting would place the "inside" manufacturers at a "further disadvantage in meeting the competition of the

(Continued on Page 3)

## Long Island Dress Lockout Ends in Victory for Girls

300 Return To Work in Jubilant  
Mood—Girl Strikers Hold Victory  
Dance.

The lockout in the seven Ozone Park, L. I. dress shops which has been in progress for over four weeks, came to an end last Saturday, January 5, when the employers signed a union agreement and called back all their workers.

Though comparatively not of long duration this lockout-strike was marked by a splendid spirit of resistance on the part of the girl dress makers in the Long Island shops, which proved conclusively that they are loyal trade-unionists and are capable of meeting aggression with courage and firmness.

The girls celebrated the conclusion of the fight at a "victory dance" arranged by themselves in Firemen's Hall, Woodhaven, which was attended by all the former strikers and many of their friends. Music, dancing and refreshments were provided for all the guests.

Among the girls who contributed largely to the successful fight against the lockout were Dorothy Farrell, Josephine Kenny, Hattie Turner, Dorothy Alfaro, and Dorothy Jasinska. Organizers Grossman, Di Nola, and Brothers Halperin, Antonini and Baroff assisted in various ways while the fight was on.

## New York Reefer Makers Get Back Old Local 17 Charter

G. E. B. Committee Adjusts Amicably Contentions of Both Sides  
—Reefer Makers Start to Organize Their Group

Last Friday, January 4, the former members of Local 17, old reefer makers' organization in New York City, obtained back their charter at a

formal meeting held in the office of the I. L. G. W. U.

A sub-committee of the General Executive Board worked out a plan for the effective transfer of all the former members of Local 17 to the new local, and made several recommendations to safeguard against misunderstandings and clashes between Locals 2 and 17 in the future. This plan was laid before a committee of Local 2 and a group of former active members of Local 17 and was subsequently adopted by both sides. This preliminary work over, President Schlesinger and Secretary Baroff formally turned over to the reefer makers a charter for an independent local body to be known as Local 17.

The terms brought in by the sub-committee of the G. E. B. which consisted of vice-presidents Ninfo, Reisberg, Dubinsky, Amdur and Wander, are as follows:

1) All former members of the Children Cloak and Reefer Makers' Union, Local No. 17, who are now members of Local No. 2, may transfer to the newly chartered local. Local No. 2 shall issue such transfers to them upon their request.

2) Members who are in arrears up to twenty (20) weeks by January 5, 1929, and apply for a transfer shall pay up their arrears in full to Local No. 2.

3) Members who are in arrears from twenty-one (21) up to thirty-nine (Continued on page 2)

## Cloak and Dress Open Forums In All Parts of Greater City

Free Discussion Meetings Arouse Keen Interest—Schlesinger, Dubinsky, Breslaw, Feinberg, Kaplan, Kirtzman, Moser, Nagler and Sorkin Among Speakers—Forums Held in Bronx, Down Town, Coney Island, Williamsburg, Brownsville, and in Cloak and Dress "Market"

The open forum campaign started two weeks ago by Pres. Schlesinger in the Bronx, appears to have met with great favor among the cloak-makers and dressmakers of New York City. If we are to judge by the

large crowds attending these discussion meetings and the eagerness with which the debates are being followed and commented upon. It may be stated without fear of exaggeration that these meetings have contributed a good deal to awaken among a number of workers a new interest in their union and rekindled a new faith in the future of their organization.

The subjects which arouse the greatest amount of interest at these open forums, as one might have expected, are the International manifesto and the "open door" policy with regard to all former members of the union, the demands presented by the Joint Board to the cloak manufacturers and the attitude of the employers toward these demands, and the International bond issue of \$250,000 for the finan-

(Continued on page 2)

## Cloak Shop Chairmen Rally To Union at Two Big Meetings

Vice-President Dubinsky, General Manager Nagler and Managers Perlmuter and Moser Address Chairmen

On Thursday evening, December 27, and on Wednesday evening, January 2, two unusually well-attended cloak shop chairmen meetings took place in Bryant Hall, 42nd Street and 6th Avenue, New York City. The first meeting was called by Bro. Ben Moser, manager of the American and Inde-

pendent Department of the Joint Board, while the second was summoned by Bro. Sam. Perlmuter, and was attended by Industrial Council chairmen.

General Manager Nagler and Vice-president Dubinsky discussed with

(Continued on Page 3)



## Big Block of Bonds Sold by Union In First Two Weeks

(Continued from page 1)

York City was the Italian Cloakmakers' Union, Local 48, which bought bond certificates for the sum of \$5,000—\$2,000 for the local and \$3,000 for officers and members of the executive board.

### Dressmakers, Local 22, Buy \$4,000 Worth of Bonds

The executive board of Local 22, the Dressmakers' Union of New York, fell in line at the meeting of its executive board on Tuesday, January 8. The local purchased twenty bonds outright and pledged itself to sell in a brief space of time twenty more.

The raincoat makers of New York City, Local 20, at an executive board meeting last week decided to buy thirty bonds for \$3,000, and to start simultaneously a selling campaign among their members and friends. It is expected that this local will go over the top at its general member meeting, which is to take place soon at Manhattan Lyceum.

### Local 10, Cutters, Sell \$6,000 Worth of Bonds

Local 10, at its last executive board meeting, discussed the bond issue, and voted to purchase \$1,000 worth outright, while the local's officers and members of the board subscribed to twenty-five additional bonds, for \$2,500.

But Local 10, not satisfied with this, keeps up a selling drive under the leadership of Vice-president Dubinsky, its manager. Thus, a few days ago, ten cutters employed in the cutting rooms of Hattie Carnegie, prominent dress firm, "chipped in" and bought \$1,000 worth of bonds. Several other cutting rooms are contemplating following the example of the Carnegie cutters.

Other New York locals will take up the issue at their earliest meetings. It is also reported that the bond loan of the I. L. G. W. U. is being placed on the order of the day in several Workmen's Circle branches. Branch 42, of that order already took action in this matter and purchased a bond at its last meeting.

### Cleveland Joint Board Buys \$10,000 Bonds

As a result of President Schlesinger's visit to a meeting of the Cleveland Joint Board on December 19, that body decided to purchase a block of International bonds for \$10,000. On that same day, an informal conference of persons interested in the labor movement of Cleveland took place, and this conference pledged itself to buy an additional \$5,000 worth of bonds. The Cleveland organization

undertook to sell its complete allotment during January and to forward the money without delay to the International office.

The Chicago Federation of Labor, headed by John Fitzpatrick, decided last week to call a conference of unions affiliated with it to set on foot a bond selling campaign in that city.

### Philadelphia Cloak and Dressmakers Buy \$10,000 Bonds

The Philadelphia organization of the I. L. G. W. U. once again showed its loyalty to the parent body when it voted at a meeting last Monday, January 7, in the Labor Institute, to subscribe to 100 shares of the bond issue of the International.

Pres. Schlesinger addressed the meeting, and received an ovation. He spoke of the tremendous task of rehabilitation facing the I. L. G. W. U. today in New York City, of the havoc wrought within the trade by Communist irresponsibles and their Moscow mentors, of the negotiations with the cloak manufacturers going on at present, and stressed the vital importance of relieving the financial burden which is all but strangulating the leadership of the Union in New York right now.

Nearly half of the sum pledged by the Philadelphia organization was subscribed on the spot, and the rest, it was faithfully promised by the leadership of both the dress and the cloak locals, would be forthcoming within a few days.

## Reefer Makers Get Back Old Charter

(Continued from page 1)

(39) weeks by January 5, 1929 and are unable to make full payment to Local No. 2 when applying for a transfer, shall be given a transfer upon payment to Local No. 2 of the local's quota dues and taxes. A receipt shall be issued to each applicant indicating the balance of the arrears which the transferred member shall pay to the newly chartered local, for which the new local shall issue International dues' stamps.

4) Members who are in arrears from nine (9) up to (18) months to Local No. 2 shall be given a transfer upon the payment of nine (9) months' dues in accordance with the manifesto issued by the General Executive Board on December 12, 1928. In the event such members are unable to make full payment, Provision No. 3 shall be applied to such members.

5) Not to hamper the work of Local No. 2 in connection with their pending elections and preparations for the coming season, the Committee decided to announce that a period of five (5) weeks up until February 11, 1929 has been extended to members desiring to transfer to the newly chartered local.

6) The Committee of the General Executive Board, which shall have full supervision over the newly chartered local and its affairs, shall also supervise the transfer of members from Local No. 2 to the newly chartered local and may, if necessary, appoint one of its members to work in conjunction with Local No. 2 in transferring members, in order to avoid friction.

7) To give ample time to the rechartered local to establish itself and to elect its officers, this Committee shall appoint a provisional administration for the new local. The newly chartered local shall be under the complete supervision of the Committee of the General Executive Board for a period of six (6) months.

8) The Committee further decided

## Cloak and Dress Open Forums In All Parts of Greater City

(Continued from page 1)

cial rehabilitation of the Union. The open forums are organized by a special propaganda committee of the Joint Board under the direction of Vice-president Breslaw.

Within the last two weeks, such open meetings had been held in nearly every part of New York—in the Coney Island, Brownsville and Williamsburg sections of Brooklyn, in Down Town halls, in the Bronx and in halls located in the cloak and dress "market." The first of these forums, the big meeting in Hunts' Point Palace, was already reported in detail in the last issue of "Justice." On the following Friday night, December 28, and Sunday morning, December 30, Vice-presidents Dubinsky and Breslaw and the former manager of the J. B. Bro. Israel Feinberg, spoke at three crowded meetings in Coney Island, Brownsville and in the Forward Hall on the East Side of Manhattan.

### Brownsville Labor Lyceum Meeting

The Brownsville forum drew several hundred cloakmakers and dressmakers, most of them residing in that locality. Bro. Joa. Breslaw, the manager of Local 35, in a thoroughgoing talk told the audience why the Communists and their followers are afraid to accept the terms of readmission into the union proposed to them by the International. The workers present asked questions and debated for an hour and a half the arguments advanced by Bro. Breslaw.

At the Sunday morning forum, on

December 30, in Pythian Temple Coney Island, where Bro. Alex Student was chairman, Vice-president Dubinsky discussed again for an hour and a half the significance of the "open door" policy adopted by the International for the workers in the industry and for the Union's future. "We know, of course," said Bro. Dubinsky, "that the Communists cannot and would not conclude peace with us. The order from Moscow today is: Break up the existing unions wherever you can, destroy the labor movement, and form Communist unions in their place."

In the same tenor spoke Bro. Israel Feinberg, ex-manager of the Joint Board, who addressed about five hundred workers at the Forward Hall on the same morning, commanding their fullest attention while he delivered his address and answering all questions for over an hour after he concluded his talk.

### Bryant Hall Forum Overcrowded

The open meeting held on Thursday afternoon, January 3, in Bryant Hall was so crowded that many had to be turned away for lack of space. All cloak and dress makers without regard to opinion or affiliation were freely admitted. The speakers were Israel Feinberg, Nicholas Kirtzman, of Local 2, and Manager Nagler of the Joint Board. All spoke of the newest developments within the organization, and touched in brief upon the new Communist "union" sponsored by the old crew of International enemies. Questions were freely asked and answered, some of them with the obvious purpose of creating a disturbance, but the meeting, nevertheless, passed off without incident. An attempt by a few Communists to leave the hall as a "demonstration" proved abortive as no one followed them and they subsequently came back.

### "Where Are All Your 'Peace' Committees Today?" Asks Dubinsky at Big Ambassador Hall Meeting

The open forum last Sunday, January 6, at the Ambassador Hall, Third Avenue and Claremont Parkway, the Bronx, proved an amazing success from every view point. The meeting proved furthermore that since the inauguration of the open forum system of discussion of union matters among its own membership, the organization has made rapid strides.

As was to be expected, Communists and their followers came to this meeting too, though the majority of the audience consisted of faithful adherents and members of the International. Bro. Sorkin, of the New York Joint Board, led off the discussion, and was followed by Vice-president Dubinsky. A few disturbers again attempted to create a tumult in the hall but their plans were quickly squelched, as the audience impressed upon them in unmistakable manner that it wants to have order and attention at the meeting.

Dubinsky, in a masterly speech analyzed the Union's manifesto, pointing to its constructive and remedial nature and its perfect sincerity in dealing with one of the Union's sorest problems. He bitterly attacked the new-fangled scab opposition "union" which the Communists in league with their "impartial" friends are attempting to "sell" to the cloakmakers and to the dressmakers. "They have failed even at their so-called convention to live up to any one of their 'radical' promises and are in reality, what they always have been, a tail to the rotten Communist kite" concluded Vice-president Dubinsky.

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## Industrial Council Rejects Union Demands; Seeks Piece-Work and Longer Hours

(Continued from page 1)  
less responsible factors in the industry." The \$5 increase in the minimum wage scale, the unemployment insurance fund, the joint control committee for the elimination of evils in the cloak trade, notably the sub-standard sweat shops, were all dismissed by the employers on the same sweeping ground. For this same reason they demanded piece-work and the right to work on Saturdays during "at least three months each season."

President Schlesinger, on behalf of the Union, vigorously dissented from the manufacturers' conclusions, but expressed satisfaction with their admission that the sweat-shop system again menaces the industry and said that the Union would be glad to cooperate with all responsible elements in the industry in the attempt to eliminate sweat shops. At his suggestion it was decided that further negotiations should be handled by committees from the Council and the Union.

The Union was represented at the conference by President Schlesinger, Isadore Nagler, general manager of the New York Joint Board, Harry Wander, its secretary-treasurer, Max Stoller, its chairman, and by local managers Salvatore Ninfo, Sam Perlmuter, B. Kaplan, D. Dubinsky, N. Kirtzman, D. Rubin, Joseph Breslau, L. Rosenblatt, and B. Moser.

## Dress Union Renews Independent Pacts

Extension of 12 Months Harmonizes  
With Program Presented to  
Associations

The union has extended for a year the agreements made individually with the independent dress manufacturers, according to Elias Reisberg, manager of the dress department of the Joint Board of the Cloak, Suit and Dressmakers' Union.

The previous agreement expired by limitation Dec. 31, 1928. It contained a clause to the effect that, in the event neither party served notice of different intent prior to the expiration of the agreement, the contract should be considered as renewed automatically.

The agreements with the independent dress manufacturers are identical with the pact made with the Association of Dress Manufacturers, with the exception that claims affecting the union or the manufacturers are taken up individually, Manager Reisberg explained.

In addition to Mr. I. Grossman, and Mr. Wilkin of Wilkin & Adler, the Industrial Council representatives included Max Meyer, of A. Beller & Co.; George Jablow, of Aaron Goldstein & Co., Inc.; William Bloom, Wm. Bloom & Co., Inc.; Julius Finger, Finger-Cahn Co., Inc.; Adolph Oppenheimer, A. & S. Oppenheimer, and Albert Sarney, Kamy Cloak Co.

## Chicago Joint Board Elects Chief Officers

Union's Funds Freed by Decision of  
Referee

The annual election for manager and two business agents of the Chicago Joint Board was held on Wednesday, December 12.

There were six candidates in the field—Morris Bialis, Philip Davids, Jacob Hoffman, Abraham Rabinowitz, Harry Rufer and Aaron Sherr. 960 members took part in the voting, and reelected all the three former incumbents, namely, Morris Bialis with a vote of 704, and Philip Davids and Abe Rabinowitz with 576 and 594 votes respectively.

On Friday evening, December 21, the reelected business agents were installed in office, and Morris Bialis was unanimously selected to be manager of the Joint Board for another year.

Union's Funds Released by Referee's  
Order

Mr. J. Pollack, the master in chancery before whom the hearings on the subject of the Joint Board's funds attached some time ago by the Communists were held, rendered two weeks ago a decision that these funds belong to the Joint Board, and that the Communists have no claim on it, as they had expelled themselves from the Union by having started a separate dual organization in the trade.

This decision was greeted with extreme satisfaction in all union circles in Chicago.

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## Cloak Shop Chairmen Rally To Union at Two Big Meetings

(Continued from Page 1)  
the shop chairmen the significance of the current negotiations with the cloak employers, emphasizing the importance of having a solid organization that would impress the manufacturers. Both spoke of the International's activity during the past few weeks and pointed out the duty imposing upon the shop chairmen in

connection with the manifesto issued by the Union a few weeks ago.

Bro. N. Kirtzman, manager of Local 9, presided at the next meeting, of the shop chairmen of the Industrial Council shops, in the same hall. General Manager Nagler reported of the Joint Board efforts, while manager Perlmutter and Ben Kaplan of Local 2 described the general condition of the Union. Both condemned the new opposition "union" rigged up by the Communists with the aid of a few malcontents and dislodged job-holders, who are now planning to ride back into power and office on the backs of the cloak and dress workers.

On motion by Bro. Stoloff, chairman of the Crown Cloak Co. shop, the second meeting voted unanimously to call individual shop meetings in order to spread and stimulate the sale of bonds among the cloakmakers. Both meetings adopted ringing resolutions, pledging themselves in view of the appeal made by the Union to all cloakmakers to come back into its midst with full membership rights regardless of political opinions to "cooperate and to work in harmony with all constructive elements which strive and fight to achieve a strong and united union that would benefit all workers."

## Schlesinger Confers With Corset Firm in Chicago

Wage Question Center of Discussion  
—Machine Problem Debated at  
Joint Board Meeting.

On his first visit to Chicago since he was elected president of the I. L. G. W. U., Benjamin Schlesinger took up three major topics, the matter of difficulties of the corset and corselette workers of the Nature's Rival's Company's shop, the machinery problem, and the issue of the three-year bonds by the International.

A conference between Mr. Samuel Jaffe, of the Nature's Rival Co., and Pres. Schlesinger resulted in agreement to leave the difficulties to Judge Harry Fisher, of the Circuit Court, for mediation. Pres. Schlesinger indicated that the trouble was over wages for the newly formed corset and corselette workers' local, the majority of whom are employed by this firm.

Pres. Schlesinger spent a good deal of his time in Chicago in interviewing officials of the Chicago unions and appeared at only one mass-meeting, that of the Nature's Rival workers at the Atlantic Hotel on Sunday morning, immediately upon his arrival.

The machine problem was taken up at the joint meeting of the Chicago Joint Board and of all the executive boards of the Chicago organization late Monday afternoon, December 29. A main topic at this meeting was the bond issue of the International which is expected to aggregate \$250,000. The Chicago members are expected to buy 150 bonds of \$100 denomination.

## Secretary Baroff Installs Local 20 Executive Staff

Local Tenders Banquet to Leaders—  
Officers Given Gifts

The recently elected officers of Local 20, for 1929, were installed in office at a fine gathering of union members on Friday evening, December 28, in the L. L. G. W. U. Auditorium.

Secretary Baroff inducted the new administration of the raincoat local into office. In a brief though warm talk, Bro. Baroff pointed out to the reelected officers of Local 20 that they owe a duty not only to their own local but to the entire organization with which they are affiliated. "You are part and parcel of the International," Secretary Baroff said, "today the International is devoting all its time and efforts to the rebuilding of the cloak and dress trades, and tomorrow, should the necessity arise, your parent body and your sister unions would be ready to come to your assistance with the same zeal and devotion."

President Schlesinger, who was away on union business in Chicago, sent a telegram, which was read amid applause. After the meeting, a number of the active workers of the local attended a banquet in honor of the newly elected officers, to which representatives of the International and of the Joint Board were also invited. Vice-presidents Greenberg, Halperin, Gingold and Samuel Friedman, chairman of Local 20, spoke, and David Simon acted as toastmaster. Gingold and Polinsky received valuable radio sets as tokens of recognition from their fellow members.

## Women's Trade Union League Classes

One hundred students from the Women's Trade Union League educational classes will attend a luncheon at the League Clubhouse, 247 Lexington Avenue, on Saturday, January 5th, to hear Tom Tippet speak on "After Education—What?"

The second term classes at the Women's Trade Union League begin on Monday, January 7. These classes are all evening classes arranged for the benefit of league members who are employed in industry during the day but who desire further education in English, economic and social problems, history and literature.

## DRESSMAKERS

MEMBERS OF LOCAL 22, I. L. G. W. U.

All members are urgently requested to attend a  
**District Meeting**  
**Thursday, January 17, 1929**  
at 8 P. M.

MCKINLEY SQUARE GARDENS  
1258 Boston Road (cor. 169th St.)

Matters of general importance will be discussed.  
Only members will be admitted.

EXECUTIVE BOARD LOCAL 22.

J. Rabinowitz, Chairman

Jos. Spielman, Secretary

## JUSTICE

A Labor Journal

Published every other Friday by the Intern'l Ladies' Garment Workers' Union

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BENJ. SCHLESINGER, President A. BAROFF, Secretary-Treasurer  
MAX D. DANISH, Editor

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## EDITORIALS.

At last, the Communist party agents in the garment trades have achieved their long-sought aim after three years of scheming and maneuvering. Officially, the opposition dual union in the cloak, dress and fur trades under Communist tutelage and direction was finally launched in New York last week.

### The "New" Communist Union

The "new union" was ushered into the world by the Moscow midwives with the customary Communist ballyhoo and fanfare. They staged a convention with "delegates" from phantom trade "unions"—from New York to California—who represented either themselves or at best small groups of rabid Communist adherents. This motley confab started out with tremendous promises of "true amalgamation," of "election by referendum," of "limited time terms for officers" and a collection of similar all-cures, but ended up, as was to be expected, by electing officers without a referendum, by conveniently forgetting about a limited time-term for officers, and by retaining the local form of organization, despite a thin-voiced prayer for a "shop-delegate system."

In other words, the "new union" turned out to be the same old Communist strike-breaking outfit under a new, quite transparent cloak. Except that, toward the very end, they got scared at the idea of officially affiliating with the Red Moscow Trade Union Internationale and shelved it for a time. Also, right before winding up the circus, a practical Communist clown made a speech for the "rehabilitation of the industry itself," and got a few hand-claps as a reward. Just picture to yourselves, cloak-makers and dressmakers,—the never-do-wells who achieved such remarkable results with the fateful cloak strike in 1926, in the role of "rehabilitators of industry"—wouldn't that make a lizard laugh?

And now that they have got it, what are they going to do with it? Now that Foster, Gitlow, Weisbord and the other Communist arch-priests have finally got for themselves a new "experimental union" to play with, how far will they get with it?

As far as any other opposition, strikebreaking outfit ever got in the American labor movement. They will get with it as far in the garment trades as they got in the mining industry last year with their "national miners' union" which they started traitor-like in the midst of a year-long struggle of the soft coal miners against the wage-reduction policy of the coal barons; they will get as far as they got in the textile industry with their abortive leadership in Passaic, with their disruptive propaganda in the New Bedford strike, and with their still more recent sabotaging of the silk workers' strike in Paterson.

A few weeks will pass, the Communist shrieks and yells will subside, and the hot air balloon, this "amalgamated industrial union," will gradually begin to shrink to its original size of a puny scab agency in the cloak, dress and fur trades. Any person with common sense, any man or woman who knows anything at all about the garment trades, is fully aware that this nondescript bunch is incapable of constructive work, that they represent nobody, that they haven't a leg to stand on in the fur industry; that they speak only for a handful of virulent Communists and for some disgruntled job-seekers in the cloak and dress trades; that the masses of the workers are not with them. The most they can do is to hinder the constructive efforts to complete the task of rebuilding our organizations for another few months; the worst they may do is to carry on for another while a guerilla fight in the dress and fur trades under the guise of a "strike," until their final bolt is shot. That is as far as they can go. And without the aid of a heavily-subsidized Rothstein police "pull" they can travel but little in this direction. The rest of their pretense is fake, humbug and cheap Communist braggadocio.

This bluff of an "industrial amalgamated union" can't find a response among our masses because our masses have seen these Communists at work in the cloak and in the fur trades; they have seen what a terrible mess Communist leadership has made of work conditions in the shops when they got to the helm. The furriers will not forget for many years to come what a wreckage the Communists left behind them when they finally were ousted from control, and the cloakmakers will remember as long as they live how their own commissars pretty nearly

smashed the cloak union to smithereens during their management of the unfortunate general strike of 1926.

The furriers and the cloak and dress makers have seen thugs beating up men and women going to work in union shops for no other reason but because these men and women remained true and loyal to their union; they have seen underworld agents in Communist pay keep up a reign of terror in the garment districts for long months in order to fasten their hold upon the unions which they thought they already had safely tucked away in their vest-pockets. Now these same "boys" are staging a comeback; they held a convention, adopted a new name and have become "amalgamated."

A leopard may change his skin, but a leopard he remains just the same. The Communist agents under a new fur will not entice the cloak and dress and fur workers to their lair. Our workers will ignore the sweet yodeling of the Communist sirens promising them a brand new "revolution," of which they already had an unforgettable taste. Our workers will turn with greater zest and zeal to the only real constructive task before them—the task of rebuilding their unions, of eliminating chaos and disorder from their industry, and repairing the great harm which these Communists have caused them only a short time ago.

Buy a bond and build the union! That is the slogan of the hour in the big cloakmaker and dressmaker family in New York City, in Chicago, in Cleveland in Philadelphia, in Boston, in Los Angeles, and in every other place where women's garment workers are organized in unions, big or small. This Union has got to lift itself out of the financial slump which handicaps it at every step and turn, and it can lift itself up on the shoulders of its members only. That is the essence and meaning of the big bond campaign which the International has launched last week, and that is precisely how the membership of the Union should understand its purpose and aim.

We are surrounded on all sides by obstacles and difficulties. There is an enemy lurking in every nook and corner. We are facing organized employers, who would not hesitate at the first sign of weakness to spring at our throats and grab every gain and advantage we have secured at the price of many years of toil and struggling. We are being harassed, besides, by destructive guerilla groups, who would take the life of our Union at the first opportunity to satisfy the mad schemes of outside fanatics and would-be controllers of the American trade union movement, if they only could.

But these enemies of our Union are reckoning without its true master, its membership. The members of the International will not let it be destroyed by either the bosses or the Moscow agents. Our International Union will surmount its present difficulties just as it has survived the storms that rocked it in the past. It will keep right on sailing its historic course, the course that was charted out for it by the economic and industrial needs of our workers until it passes out of the shallow waters and emerges again upon the broad expanse of unobstructed development and progress.

Buy bonds, members of the International, and help your Union!

Your Union needs funds now to tide it over its momentary difficulties. You need your Union today worse than at any other period in the past twenty-eight years of its existence. Your Union does not intend to conceal its poverty from you. Frankly, openly and above board your International appeals to you for a temporary loan to help it complete the great drive for the rebuilding of our organization. It does not ask for a contribution from you—it pledges its good faith and credit to return this loan to you at the end of three years. And those of you, the great majority of you, who have belonged to this International for years know that its credit is good and sound. Its bond to repay you this loan is sacred.

This loan should give the Union an opportunity to release all its energy for the work of putting the organization on a solid basis. This bond loan should strengthen its hand during the pending parleys with the employers; it should, furthermore, make these employers realize that the workers stand solidly behind their union and are ready to back it with all means at their disposal. It should raise the morale in all the cloak and dress shops and infuse new inspiration into our hearts. Quicker than any number of pledges and resolutions it should convince the rest of the Labor movement that the cloakmakers and the dressmakers are actually determined to have a union, that they mean what they say and are willing to support their words by deeds.

Those of you who will rally to the support of your International Union at this critical moment, will, in the years to come, after the present storm has subsided, recall with pride and deep inner satisfaction the fact that you were amongst the true and tried soldiers of the trade union army who not only remained loyal to its principles but out of their last savings helped it to get back on a sound footing, to recover its health and strength and to start on a new era of solid achievement. This memory shall be the finest reward, the most generous compensation for the heartaches and tribulations through which you have had to pass, together with all the other loyal members of the Union, during the present troublous period of our lives.

Get on the honor list, members of the International, buy a bond and help rebuild your Union!

# How Workers Toil and Live In India

In India, with its incalculable material resources and its immense reservoir of labor, to be exploited by big business to the detriment of the workers throughout the world, or is it to take its rightful place in the ever-advancing line of working-class evolution?

This is the problem, more urgent today than at any time in the history of trade unionism, envisaged in a remarkable report on "Labor Conditions in India," issued by Mr. A. A. Purcell, M.P., and Mr. J. Hallsworth, who, in conformity with a resolution passed at the Edinburgh Congress, spent nearly four months last winter on a tour of investigation, opening with a fraternal visit to the All-India Trade Union Congress.

The two delegates, the first representatives of the British movement as a whole to visit India, covered an itinerary of 14,000 miles in India itself (including the voyage to and from India, the total distance covered was nearly 28,000 miles), and in the course of their tour they inspected every kind of industrial undertaking, including tea gardens and rubber plantations, peasant villages, seamen's lodging-houses, bazaars, hospitals, dispensaries, and other places, and made a special point of inspecting social conditions at first hand.

## Message of Unity Welcomed

"No opportunity was lost," says the report, "of visiting Trade Union offices, executives, or conferences; or of addressing meetings of workers, colleges, universities, and others on the need for and the value of trade union organization. Everywhere the message of unity was listened to eagerly at meetings varying in size from a few hundreds to several thousands of persons, some reaching 10,000 and 20,000 in big centers of employment."

The report is divided into seven sections, the first being a general review of labor and social conditions and the state of Trade Union organization. Everywhere the message of unity was listened to eagerly at meetings varying in size from a few hundreds to several thousands of persons, some reaching 10,000 and 20,000 in big centers of employment."

In the first section valuable and carefully digested statistics are given, in which the total number of persons available for Trade Union organization is shown at the amazing figure of 21,476,107. By far the greater part of these workers are illiterate, largely owing, as the report shows, to the invidious policy of the Government, which not only starves the educational services in favor of military and police expenditure, but discriminates between European and Anglo-Indians on the one hand and Indians on the other, at the expense of the latter.

## Dangers of Illiteracy

It is not, therefore, surprising to find that in Bengal (to quote a typical example) only 9.7 of the male and 2.1 of the female population are literate.

"From a labor standpoint," says the report, "it is obvious that widespread illiteracy is a serious obstacle to Trade Union organization and the attempt to free the people from the economic and social oppression prevailing throughout India. For this reason alone the Labor movement must lose no opportunity of pressing for the institution of a public system of education for all."

The indictment of the housing conditions which prevail everywhere in the sub-continent is one of the most terrible passages of the report; despite

(Cable Reports from India Tell of a Great Strike Wave in Some of the Basic Industries of That Country. The Story of Working and Living Conditions in the Land, from the Pen of Expert English Trade Unionists, Should, Therefore, Be of Timely Interest to Our Readers.—Ed.)

the restraint and moderation which characterize the descriptions given, the picture presented of the conditions under which many millions of men, women and children are forced to live is revolting in the extreme. Overcrowding intensifies the horror of the situation. In one of the largest cities more than a million workers are packed into noisome tenements, a single room of which may be made to accommodate as many as twenty people. Sanitation is practically unknown. Exposed gulleys choked with garbage serve as sewers—and too often as latrines—in the villages. In the towns open gutters flow by the thresholds of shops in which food is exposed, without any attempt at protection against flies, dust, or the abominable exudations from the stagnant stream of liquid filth. It is not to be marvelled at that in Bengal alone, 408,000 children died in 1926 before reaching the age of five years, according to the report of the Director of Public Health for that year, while the same authority estimated that between 60,000 and 70,000 mothers died in childbirth, or from conditions directly related to childbirth.

## Women Work For 3½ D. A Day

A glance at the wage scales—of which a very full account is further illustrated by valuable statistical tables is given in the report—helps to explain the state of serfdom of the Indian workers. About 60 per cent of the workers receive wages scaling down from 1s. 2d a day in the case of men to 7d. or less in the case of women; cases were quoted to the delegation in which the rates for women were as low as 3½d. a day. An oppressive system of fines and deductions plays havoc with these miserable pittance. In certain textile mills two days' wages are deducted for one day's absence from work, while in one district advances against wages earned are granted and made recoverable on pay-day with interest, which, in certain instances, is as high as 150 per cent.

Despite all these unfavorable concurrences, the delegation was impressed by the progress made by Trade Unionism, in view of the fact that Trade Union organizations cannot be said to have started in the country until 1918. It is estimated that the total strength of the various Indian Trade Unions, including those not yet affiliated to the All-India Trade Union Congress, is 200,000. This may seem a pitifully small fraction of the many millions of organizable workers, but the delegation rightly take the view, that the greater the task the greater the possibilities.

"It may well be," says the report, "that a common understanding of policy on the part of the employers in the various industries will result in the amalgamation of the local or line unions, as the case may be, into national organizations of all grades, and, if that takes place, we believe that the Indian movement will develop at a pace that will enable it to exercise a profound influence for the upliftment of the Indian working class, and give it a high place in the International Trade Union world."

## Arbitrary Wage Scales

The industries dealt with in sections 2-6 of the report are the railways, mining, textile and jute, tea, and a group of miscellaneous industries, including building and wood working, electrical trades, printing, tramways, municipal employees, seamen, and dockers. Of these the railways form the largest and most comprehensive industrial undertaking, the number of employees totaling 762,553 persons, whose status may be gauged from the fact that there are no negotiated or agreed rates of wages, these being determined by the employers and enforced without any reference to the views of the workers. In theory the eight-hour day obtains, but in practice employees are often required to work long overtime, including Sundays, without pay. Complaints have been made regarding cases in which porters have been employed for stretches of forty-eight hours without a rest. Pointsmen have been on duty for periods of nearly forty hours.

The mining industry employs about 260,000, of which about 170,000 are employed in the coalfields. Wages in this industry also are shockingly low, scaling down in some instances to 3½d. a day. The position is complicated, though not to the advantage of the workers, by the system of community working which obtains in some districts, where members of a village or clan work under their own headman, who takes all pay on behalf of the group.

## The Man With the Whip

Similarly, in the tea-planting industry the delegates found that large numbers of recruits, "for the most part primitive and illiterate, are lured from their villages, situated hundreds of miles away, in the belief that in the tea gardens the struggle for a living will be less grim than in their usual places of abode." These "recruited" workers are during their term of service practically slaves kept in bondage by punitive regulations. Practically nothing is done for the social welfare of the laborers, or for the education of their children. Fourteen shillings a month is reckoned a good wage for a man; women get about 11s. and children about 7s. a month. It can scarcely be wondered at that, in his report for 1927, the Chief Secretary to the Assam Government noted as a "disquieting feature" a "sudden epidemic of strikes."

"The story of the poor laborers in the tea gardens of Assam," says the report, "is about as sordid a one as could possibly be related. We witnessed a group of men, women and children working away together, while about five yards away was a planter's young assistant proudly hugging a whip. This we regarded as good proof of the 'contentment' prevailing among the tea garden population."

"Our view is that, despite all that has been written, the tea gardens of Assam are virtually slave plantations, and that in Assam tea the sweat, hunger, and despair of a million Indians enters year by year."

In Ceylon the delegates found a new oppressor of the plantation workers—the Kangany, who farms the coolies to the planters, and is the terror not only of the former but of the latter; as the report remarks, a kind of Nemesis on the planters, his original sponsors.

## A Trade Union Victory

Among the other occupations, the delegates found the same story of low pay, and bad conditions generally. Seamen and dock workers are the victims of a wholesale system of bribery and corruption; seamen are charged as high as 25 per cent of

their wages merely for the brokers' recommendation for service, while starvation wages, long overtime with there is collusion between the brokers and lodging-house keepers to mulct them still further of their scanty pay. Wages of dockers scale at a trifle over 1s. for a ten-hour day. As an item of relief in a dark picture it is related that at one port strong Trade Union organizations resulted in the wages being raised to 2s. 7½d. per day of nine hours.

The concluding section is a powerful plea for the help needed to bring to the millions of Indian workers the consciousness that the way of salvation lies open before them, and a plain and convincing statement of the dangers to the workers of this and other countries outside India of a policy of neglect.

"In traveling from point to point in the great sub-continent of India," says the report, "we felt growing upon us very strongly an apprehension that we were in the presence of tremendous forces which, sooner or later, would be applied to a great expansion of manufacturing activity."

"If India really settles down to the production of textile and kindred machinery, not only the working classes of Great Britain, but that of Europe and America, also, will feel the severe shock of a very great change."

## Dare We Sit Still?

"The question for our great Trade Union movement is: Can we afford to sit still while this stupendous industrial expansion takes place, having regard to the fact that in most trades, occupations, dealings, and industries in India it takes six to eight workers to obtain as much in wages as one of the lowest paid workers in Great Britain?"

"The problem, such as it is, must be faced by the British Trade Union movement. . . . Our view is that we must take the mighty step of linking up the British and Indian Trade Union movements for the purpose of positive and sustained organizing work, capable and immediately practicable, followed by joint action wherever con- with the object of lifting Indian workmen and workwomen out of the filthy and ghastly conditions, socially, morally and physically, into a new stage of constantly improving wages standards, giving them hope for the immediate future, and enabling them here and now to have what is the first essential to all Indian workers, namely, a firm grip on the means of life by the necessary increase of purchasing power at present kept out of their reach."

"Indian workers can be won for Trade Unionism. They are in frightful distress just now. Is it too much to expect that out of Great Britain—the one land which has made so much profit from its associations with India, no matter what the history books may say—a really practical and lasting form of help may be afforded to over three hundred millions of human beings, who, if they had the wherewithal, are sufficient in number to set going the wheels of world industry at high speed?"

## People's Symphony Concert Chamber Course

New York Chamber Music Society, Carolyn Beebe, founder, will appear on Friday Evening, Jan. 18, at 8:15 at Washington Irving High School, 16th St. and Irving Pl.

This is the third concert in the chamber course given by the People's Symphony Concerts for students and workers. Carolyn Beebe, founder of the New York Chamber Music Society, has prepared an interesting program for that evening.

Students and workers can purchase tickets at the desk the evening of the concert for 25 cents.



## Dressmakers' Union, Local 22, Issues Call To All Former Union Members

To all former members of the Dressmakers' Union, Local 22:

### Sisters and Brothers:

With the return of Benj. Schlesinger to the presidency of the International, a new page is being written into the history of our Union. His personality, energy, and his organizing ability is already beginning to bring new life and new spirit into the ranks of the thousands of organized and unorganized dressmakers.

### Sisters and Brothers:

The Dressmakers, who were always in the forefront of every battle for free expression and new ideas, within and without the Union, have also this time insisted upon the interests of the Union being placed above everything else. Thanks to this spirit, many of the reforms we contended for have now become a part of the Manifesto, which was recently issued by the International.

### This manifesto:

1. Offers every former member of the Union and opportunity to rejoin the organization, with all rights and privileges restored.
2. Grants new local elections to afford every returning member an opportunity to vote and run for office.
3. Grants every member the right to belong to any party or cult, so long as he or she is willing to work for the interest of the union.
4. Grants a regular International convention, just as soon as our agreements with the employers are renewed.

### Sisters and Brothers:

Unions are not being built by arguing politics on street corners. Continued slander and abuse will not improve the working conditions in the shops. Nor will these tactics eliminate the open shops, with which our industry is infested and which endanger our very existence. Enough we argued; enough we talked. The time has now come when we must do away with all personal squabbles. The Union must be rebuilt! It must again become the defender and protector of the workers in the shops!

Rejoin the Union now, as an old member, and let us all together bring to our Organization its former strength and prestige.

Let us jointly demonstrate to our employers a solid and united opposition. Let us jointly regain our self-respect through a strong organization.

Remember, in union and in union only—is there strength!

Long live the Dressmakers' Union!

Long live the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union!

## Local 66 Elects Officers for 1929

Take Office at Installation Meeting This Saturday

The Bonnaz Embroidery Union, Local 66 of the I. L. G. W. U. installed this Thursday, January 10, its newly elected officers for 1929, at a big member meeting held in the Debs Auditorium, 7 East 15th Street. Vice-president Julius Hochman inducted the new staff into office.

The following constitute the 1929 set of officers in Local 66:

Local chairman: Z. L. Freedman; vice-chairman, Julius Scharff; secretary-treasurer, Nathan Riesel; recording secretary, Kate Allonius; manager, Leo Hattab; board of trustees, Abr. Porchalsky and Max Teischman; sergeant-at-arms, Herman Munsdorf. The executive board: William Altman, William Bobrowsky, Herman Block, Deo Di Perl, Sam Philstein, Morris Fishman, Joseph Galt, Bernard Gold, George Hattab, Jacob Jaffee, Meyer Lederman, Anna Miller, Jennie Witkow.

This local has recently installed a system of attendance cards to check up on members who fail to come to meetings. Attendance at meetings is now obligatory in Local 66, and members should bear this in mind.

## Philip Kaplowitz Now Vice-President of International Union Bank

Former Secretary of New York Joint Board Promoted to Higher Post

Brother Philip Kaplowitz, for more than ten years secretary-treasurer of the New York Joint Board, and since 1924 cashier of the International Union Bank, was elected this week at a meeting of its board of directors, as vice-president of this financial institution.

"Mr. Kaplowitz well earned his rise in our bank," declared Mr. Solomon Fillin, president of the bank at his office, 147 Fifth Ave., corner 21st St. "He has performed his duty as cashier in our bank just as faithfully as he served the cloakmakers' union for ten years as its treasurer. Now, that our bank is growing and expanding from day to day in every branch of its service, Mr. Kaplowitz's experience and ability will rebound to the bank's advantage in even a greater measure than ever before."

Mr. Fillin pointed out in particular the rapid growing of the bank's savings department since the International Union Bank announced a month ago that it pays 4½ per cent interest on all savings deposits, old and new.

## Annual White Goods' Workers' Dance This Saturday

Refreshments, Dancing, Jazz Band

The White Goods Workers' Union, Local No. 62, in cooperation with the Educational Department, will hold their annual dance and entertainment this Saturday evening in the auditorium of the I. L. G. W. U. Building. At the same time this affair will be a "house warming", as the local recently moved to 3 West 16th Street, its new headquarters.

Scores of members of the local and their friends are expected to get together in the form of a reunion. It will be an opportunity for renewing old friendships and making new ones. The committee in charge has also provided for delicious refreshments.

Representatives of many other local unions are expected at the dance. The Local's committee is sparing no efforts to make the affair one to be long remembered. There will be dancing, singing, refreshments.

Admission tickets may be obtained free at the office of the Local, or at the Educational Department, 3 West 16th Street.

## Floersheimer Shop Girls Raise \$60 for Sick Worker

Shop Chairlady Gets New Year Gift

The shop of Samuel Floersheimer & Bro., 525 Seventh Avenue, though composed largely of workers of Italian descent nevertheless, recognizes no barrier of nationality or religion when it comes to helping a sister or a brother in need. This shop, one of the best union houses in the trade, has on more than one occasion in the past helped a fellow worker in need and this commendable spirit of fraternity is as alive today in the shop as ever in the past.

Thus, last week, we learn, the girls of the Floersheimer shop, under the leadership of Sister Marie De Luca, the chairlady, collected a purse of \$60 for Rose Magsinger, a Jewish girl, who has been sick for the last few months. A committee took the money up to her room, where she lies friendless and without the care of relatives.

It must not be omitted here that this wonderful spirit of genuine trade unionism is maintained in this shop thanks, in no small degree, to the tireless activity of Sister De Luca. The girls, it seems, know what her work means to them and they know how to appreciate it. On the eve of the New Year, the Floersheimer workers got together and presented their chairlady with a beautiful leather valise as a yuletide greeting and as an expression of good will.

## Boston Workers Give Token of Gratitude to Chairlady Hoyt

The workers of the Worthmore Dress Co. shop of Boston, Mass., a week ago, tendered a very fine reception to their chairlady, Sister L. Hoyt, in recognition of her faithful and devoted service to the shop and to the local of which she is a member, Local 46. They presented her with a leather bag and several other tokens of gratitude.

Miss Hoyt became chairlady in the Worthmore shop after several Communists who were employed there succeeded in disorganizing the place and practically destroying union influence in it. Thanks to Miss Hoyt's tireless efforts, the shop is today a good union shop and the voice of the organization is again recognized there. Small wonder, the people employed in it appreciate her loyal efforts and, at the first opportunity, expressed this appreciation in a concrete way.

## Books of The Season

A number of striking books have appeared lately which have kept the reviewers busy. One of the most interesting of them is "Whither Man-kind" edited by Professor Charles Beard. Sixteen persons well-known in every walk of literary endeavor, have contributed to this admirable volume. The book ends with an epilogue by Professor Beard.

Our members may order this book through our Educational Department. We shall be glad to help them select and acquire books.

They can visit our Department any time at 3 West 16th Street, telephone, Chelsea 2145.

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## Banning Wars and Buying Guns

By NORMAN THOMAS

Since it is almost certain that the Kellogg Pact will be ratified sooner or later, our big job is not to work for the treaty or exhaust ourselves cheering when the treaty is ratified. Our job is to try to make the treaty mean something. The first installment on that job is not to make fools of ourselves by accompanying the ratification of a treaty to outlaw war with a big navy bill which will be an invitation to a new naval race.

The other day in Philadelphia I discussed this navy bill with one of our militant Rear Admirals—retired but untired—this time a very benevolent friendly gentleman who utterly refused to be specific about why we needed the new cruisers. He gave us the usual mechanics of parity which gets us nowhere. But in spite of his caution the cat is out of the bag. The argument for a big United States navy is not to protect our own shores but to protect our commerce against Great Britain. The danger to our commerce is not merely a direct war against England. England has heretofore never permitted another nation with which she is at war to trade with a neutral if she could help it. And she usually could. Now no talk of parity will meet this case, yet it is idle to talk disarmament and ignore it. The logical thing to do is to work out some agreement on freedom of the seas. (Great Britain has usually acted as if that last word "seas" were spelled "seize".) Professor Howland of Yale has recently suggested that the United States might very well refrain from claiming a right to trade with a nation which has broken the spirit of the Kellogg Pact as well as of the League of Nations by going to war without submitting its dispute to some process of peaceful adjustment. Great Britain in turn might well renounce the right to interfere with commerce, save by a legitimate blockade, in the case of "private wars" of her own in contradistinction to "public wars" approved by the League of Nations against an aggressor nation.

Here is at least a basis for discussion. Certainly the Labor government we all hope for in the near future will be easier to talk to than the Tory imperialists now in office in Britain. Yet even these gentlemen show they desire no naval race with America. Where there is a will to peace there is a way. No navy is big enough to prevent war or to insure victory in war. The recent announcement of a new poison gas more deadly than any known before emphasizes the fact that unless we can prevent war nothing else will matter very much. The prevention of war is a many sided task. Some progress is made by the Kellogg Pact. Some confidence has been gained by the success of Pan-American efforts to avert war between Bolivia and Paraguay.

### Boulder Dam

It is characteristic of our times that no one doubts the ability of our engineers to accomplish the magnificent feat of damming the Colorado so as to provide flood control, water for irrigation and electric power. What we still doubt is the capacity of our politicians and people to see that this power is used to the maximum social advantage. The Senate went backward in passing a Boulder Dam bill which did not even give preference to public ownership and operation of hydro-electric power. But Coolidge might have vetoed a better bill, and there is still a good chance that pressure of facts and aroused public opin-

ion will compel Hoover to hang on to this great power resource. A well informed inquirer tells us that the Edison Company of Southern California, one of the implacable foes of government ownership is moderating its objection to government development of power because the government doesn't have to pay the high interest rates forced on private corporations. So they may be glad to let the government develop the power if they can distribute it. Another proof that distribution is going to be the crux of the power situation and that no plan of developing power by government agencies at a few points will do much to bring the monopoly to heel. At least the Boulder Dam bill gives a chance to cities and corporations to bid for government produced power. Which is something.

If Tammany can get away with the

Rothstein murder and all the other scandals that center around Jimmy Walker's administration by Grover Whalen's grandstand plays, his wholesale roundups of alleged criminals, his exhortations to a free use of the nightstick and the rest of it, then once more Tammany will have proved that most of the people like to be fooled most of the time.

Just when we Americans were rejoicing that only nine human beings were lynched in our free republic in 1928, the great, tolerant, Christian, Democratic state of Mississippi brought the number of them up to eleven—five in one year for Pat Harrison's balliwick! The last man was burned at the stake and Governor Bilbo has no "time or money to investigate 2,000 people". Well, it's no surprise that a state like that stands at the foot of this list in all those respects by which social well being is measured. How long will we Americans be disgraced by even one lynching in a year?

## To Heel!

THIS has nothing to do with training dogs. Rather, it has to do with how "to heel" a shoe, whether that shoe be a mountain climbing boot or milady's inconsequential boudoir mule.

A pair of new shoes, coming home in its attractive shoe box, implies little to the wearer-to-be save the price he has paid. It is just another pair of shoes. But the sons and daughters of St. Crispin—all that band of workers who down through the centuries have fashioned leather to the foot—they know that on each shoe there are some two hundred different operations, forty-five of which are termed "major".

Once upon a time each skilled shoe maker was trained to do every turn and stitch, and the completed shoe constituted his bit of creative work. Now, of course, machines do everything and another kind of skill is required. Save for some block cutting in custom made shoes, keenness of eye and sure touch of the hand are now developed only to meet the machine's need, as the operative guides the leather through all the cutting and sewing stages. And within the last few years, specialization has gone to such extremes that one roof seldom houses the making of the whole shoe.

There are heels, for instance. Far out at the rim of a great industrial center there were many Negro girls being hired "to make heels". It is the simplest possible type of work, a surface inquiry disclosed, and the help hired was not only from labor's cheapest market, but transient.

We turned to C. J. McMorris, national representative of the Boot and Shoe Workers' Union, asking him to tell us something of the high specialization in heel making.

Ninety-five per cent of women's shoes, it seems, have wooden heels which are made outside the shoe factory, for the shoe manufacturer has found it more economical to buy them than to make them because they require wood-turning machinery. (The leather worker calls upon the carpenter—we scent a jurisdictional dispute!) These heels must be turned from blocks of wood with machinery carrying absolute precision.

Men are employed in the turning, but girls do the heel covering right in the heel factory. A representative for heels visits the shoe shop and gets the height and style desired by the manufacturer.

### Heels and History

When we mention "style of heels,"

what pictures come to mind from out history's pages! There was Catherine d'Medici who introduced the French heel. And now modern chiropodists say that her instigation of the massacre of St. Bartholomew was a mild atrocity. The suffering it caused was temporary, while the French heel has been with us ever since.

Then there was Louis XIV, with a penchant for his own adaptation of the French style. He liked his heels high because he was himself too short, and when he did his amateur acting at Trionon, he wanted those heels painted red. So we have the Louis heel, and the Baby Louis heel, both classed within the style called "French".

But France is not the only country to set fashions. There are Cuban heels and Spanish. There are military heels, too, and for sports (also, yes, for all times and places) we have walking heels.

That was all by way of interpolation. To get back to the day's work—the manufacturer gives his heights and styles to the heel man, and also sends over the different kinds of covering cut from patents, kids of varying colors, reptiles, alligator skins and so on. Later the heels come back to the shoe factory finished and ready to be placed by the operative, who nails them on and smooths the heel seat so as to make a neat appearance.

These wood heel operatives, or heelers, are among the highest paid mechanics in the trade (making about \$60 a week), mostly men being engaged in this work. The women, (who are in the majority in the heel making factories) are usually underpaid.

### Leather Heels Are for Men's Shoes

It is on women's shoes that wooden heels are chiefly used. Those on men's shoes are all of leather, or of leather substitutes, with the exception of the top piece, which is usually made of rubber. These leather heels are also "farmed out" to a great extent, there being plants that specialize on this leather work quite apart from the regular shoe factories. Sides of sole leather are built in accordance with the heights required. The lifts are graded by girls in accordance with the varying qualities required—good substantial leather for the higher grades of shoes; correspondingly poorer leather for lower grades; very thin skivings pasted together for still cheaper shoes; and paper put through a process for the cheapest grades.

Women are extensively employed in leather heel making, and are as yet

unorganized, with a rather low wage rate prevailing. The work is not very clean, and it is really too rough in character for most women workers to undertake. Consequently it attracts only those who are "up against it," who can find nothing else to do to bring even the small wage made in these factories. When it comes to cutting, the jar of the machine is too pronounced for women to operate without endangering their health, so this better paid work falls to the men.

It takes three hundred million pairs of heels each year to help "shoe" our nation, and so, while the majority of the branch heel plants are located in the Eastern States—Haverhill and Boston, Massachusetts, and Brooklyn, N. Y.—some are also found scattered here and there through the middle and far west. For leather heels, the leather is bought in quantities enormous enough to give a price advantage because of the volume. In fact, many packing houses controlling the raw hides are engaged in heel building.

Another thought about heels is that Americans really like the American made heel. Many a traveler in Europe, after his pedometer has registered more miles of sight-seeing than his original supply of shoe leather will warrant, finds it impossible to locate a new pair of shoes with heels that feel right. The shoe maker over there simply doesn't use the same pattern or something. Anyway, many a tourist manages one way or another until he can buy his new shoes on this side of the Goddess of Liberty. For the most part, then, one judges, American made shoes suit American feet.

### Those Czecho-Slovakian Shoes

Just now, however, the shoe industry, employer and employee alike, is looking with deep interest and with some concern at the Bata Shoe Manufacturing Corporation located in Czecho-Slovakia, the largest shoe manufacturing establishment abroad, which is shipping to the United States more women's shoes (all with wooden heels) than any other exporter of shoes in Europe. This concern received its American shoe making education by establishing a factory in Lynn, Massachusetts, which is the chief woman's shoe manufacturing center in the United States. After learning the best and most economical methods known to the trade, the company moved to Czecho-Slovakia and in the few years since it has been established there, it has shipped into the United States many millions of pairs of shoes, and at a much lower price than it is possible to make them for here. The product equals American-made goods in quality and appearance, and since there is no tariff on shoes, the cheap labor markets of Europe enable this company to flood American markets, throwing American shoe workers out of employment.

This is one instance only of international competition, that vitally important problem which is calling for adjustment.

Bringing in a thought about those Czecho-Slovakian shoes is another digression, but all the shoe trade is talking about them, so no shoe conversation is complete without a sentence or two. American system and efficient speeding up transplanted to other soil where wage standards are still low,—that draws a big question mark in the daily journal of the American shoe maker.

But we have to get back "to heel." Millions and millions of heels, high or flat, straight or runover, click-click down stairs, along pavements, over cobblestones or green lawns, and every heel has a story of its own. In the making of it someone filled his tiny niche in the vast industrial system, and earned a loaf of bread. We wish we were sure there were enough penalties for hyacinths.

## Two Weeks In Local 10

The Bond Loan, which was announced by the International last week, received a warm response within the Union, as well as among the friends of the International outside the organization proper. The Executive Board of Local 10 decided to subscribe for a first installment of ten \$100. bonds for the local. When the matter, however, was taken up in greater detail by the Executive Board, each member of it and every officer present subscribed to a bond, and some of the officers subscribed to more than one bond. Many individual members applied to the office during the week requesting the honor of being the first to subscribe to the bond issue in Local 10.

### Hattie Carnegie Cutters First in Line

The shop of Hattie Carnegie, where thirteen cutters are employed, namely, Morris Feller, Joel Abramowitz, Julius Levine, Louis Ciruzzi, Albert Wright, Joseph Freed, J. E. Frusen, Samuel Blau, Adolph Abrahams, Ike Simon, Leon Nemenwirth, and Moe Sunshine, was the first cutting department, acting as a unit, which demonstrated its understanding of the importance of this bond issue by subscribing immediately to \$300.00 worth of bonds, which money they already paid in at the office in full. This is the first shop to make such a splendid response. This act is a source of encouragement not alone to the members of Local 10 but, we are confident, that this action of the Hattie Carnegie cutters will influence tremendously the workers throughout the trade and every local union to follow their example in devotion to the International Union.

The Bond issue is not only making a stir in Local 10, but, as stated before, it has received a warm response from each and every local union in New York, and in a number of other cities.

The Executive Board of Local 45, took twenty \$100. bonds for their local. Aside from this, their executive board members and officers subscribed to one or more bonds each, a total purchase of 56 bonds, and the first on record. Local 10 came next in line, and was followed by a subscription from Cleveland for 100 bonds. At the time of this writing a telegram was received from Chicago, advising that aside from the purchase of 150 bonds by the Joint Board, the entire membership decided to tax itself a day's wages for the bond issue. This alone is estimated to bring in approximately \$20,000.

Next came the Raincoat Makers' Union, Local 20, an organization with a small membership, from whom no more than five bonds could have been expected at most. When Pres. Schlesinger, however, addressed their Executive Board meeting, they went over the top by subscribing to thirty bonds, with a promise to double and triple the first subscription. This was followed by a subscription from

Philadelphia for \$10,000 worth of bonds, and an immediate payment of one half the amount.

Our local will begin to call shop meetings in the very near future for the purpose of approaching individual workers and explaining to them the importance of this bond issue, and enlisting them in its support.

The Bond Honor List, which we will begin to publish next week, will carry the names of all those who have shown that not only are they ready to give lip-service to the Union but that they can be depended upon, in time of need, to give material aid; that they are proud and glad to respond to the call of the International and to advance a loan for three years to their own Union.

### Meeting With Industrial Council

The first conference with the Industrial Council, relative to demands of the Union, took place last Wednesday, January 2, 1929, at the Pennsylvania Hotel, where about twenty prominent members of the Industrial Council, constituting a conference committee and headed by I. Grossman, its president, Mr. Meyer of the A. Beller, Cloak Company, and Samuel Klein, its manager, met the Union's committee, consisting of local managers, and headed by President Schlesinger, general manager Nagler, and Salvatore Ninfo, first Vice-president.

The official reply of the Industrial Council to the demands of the Union contained several counter-demands, averring that the Industrial Council has not violated any of the clauses of the agreement, and that it is not to be held responsible for the prevailing chaotic conditions in the industry, as its members too, are victims of these conditions. An increase in wages, and the other demands of the Union, they declared, would therefore, not save the situation, but instead of it, they proposed the establishment of piece-work and the insertion of a clause in the agreement which would prolong working hours by providing that cutters should work Saturdays for six months during the year. To this President Schlesinger replied that before the Union is ready to give an answer to their document in which they disclaim responsibility for the conditions in the industry, a smaller committee be appointed which should try to see whether both sides could not reach an understanding on the demands of the Union. The employers concurred this request, and it was decided that both sides appoint smaller committees and meet again in the near future. For the coming week, conferences were arranged with the Merchants' Association, organization of jobbers, and with the American Association, organization of sub-manufacturers.

### Dual "Union" Based on Misrepresentation and Humbug

Since the International has issued its manifesto, the sentiment towards

the Union in the cloak and dress has changed considerably. The passive members, as well as those that are outside of the Union, have begun to realize that the International is making an honest effort to reunite the forces of the Union in order to be able to renew the agreement with the employers, without a strike if possible, and to be in a better position to meet the situation should a strike become necessary.

The Communists, due to the same manifesto, were compelled for the first time during these many years to state openly that they are not interested in a united organization, but would rather have a "union" of their own, changed from the very foundation, and based, as they advertised it "upon class struggle, shop delegate system, and amalgamation, and not according to the ancient system of the American Federation of Labor." They have, therefore, held a so-called convention, where they proclaimed they they organized a new union. Their first claim was that they would be able to carry on the "social revolution" with greater success by eliminating local unions representing various crafts. But before their "convention" was over, this claim was lost and they decided to retain the "locals". Then they made sure to reverse themselves on the proposal which they used to bring up at International conventions in order to gain popularity among some members, namely, that officers should be permitted to hold office for more than one or two terms. It was their perennial claim that if an officer remains for more than two terms, he becomes a bureaucrat and establishes a machine. This claim was ridiculed by the trade union elements in the Union, who contended that if an officer shows ability and gains efficiency, it would hurt the institution if frequent changes were made.

### Open Forums Big Success

The International has organized open forums to popularize the manifesto, and to explain to the membership the reason why the Communists now formally organized a dual union in accordance with orders from the Moscow Internationale. These open forums are proving of great value and importance to the Union. They are attended by many hundreds of people, and every one present is asked to participate in the discussions. All members, as well as non-members, are invited to attend these open forums,

where the problems confronting our workers are being debated and clarified.

The Union has gained considerably by these open discussions, both morally and in prestige. The sentiment is fast switching over toward the International Union. Manager Dubinsky addressed several of these open forums. Many of them were attended by a large number of cutters, and every one participating in these forums was highly gratified with the results.

### Nomination Meeting

The next meeting of the organization will take place on Monday night, January 14, 1929. This meeting, aside from other important business, will be a nomination meeting. Nomination for officers for the year of 1929 will take place, and an election board will be chosen at the same meeting. A report of the ball committee, with a recommendation for levying a \$1.00 tax upon the membership for the Relief Fund, will come up for discussion and action. Other important reports in connection with the dress and cloak industry and the pending organization drive in that industry, will come up. Every member who is interested in the affairs of the Union is urged to attend this important meeting without fail. Every one present at this meeting will have his book stamped for the last quarter of 1928, which was not stamped until now, due to the calling off of the last meeting.

### New Year's Eve at Unity House

Quite a number of Union members spent a happy New Year's weekend in Unity House, the I. L. O. W. U. vacation home in Forest Park, Pa.

There was entertainment galore, a midnight dinner, dancing, recitals and above all a fine family spirit that is the very soul of the Unity House. Now when a member needs a rest, he knows where to go—to Unity House. The excellent food, the cozy rooms, the stimulating surroundings, and the wonderful mountain air are most alluring to visitors.

The rates have been reduced for the Winter season. Union members who wish to get information should apply to the Unity office, at 3 West 16th Street, or telephone Chelsea 2148.

## Cutters' Union Local 10!

The Next Regular and Special Meeting Will Be Held  
Monday, January 14, 1929  
ARLINGTON HALL, 23 ST. MARKS PLACE  
at 7:30 P. M. Sharp

The order of business is as follows:

1. Nomination of officers for the year of 1929.
  2. Election of election board.
  3. Report of Ball Committee, with recommendation of \$1.00 tax for ball ticket, for the Relief Fund of 1929.
- Books will be stamped signifying attendance at this and last quarterly meeting.

## Cutters, Special Attention!

RENEW YOUR WORKING CARDS FOR THE COMING SEASON

New working cards for the coming season are ready for distribution and exchange. Every cutter, cloak, dress and miscellaneous, must exchange the working card he holds at present for the new one. Any member securing a job must receive a new working card.

Cutters failing to comply with this order will be summoned before the Executive Board. A rigid control of the shops will be instituted shortly.